



Europäisches Patentamt  
European Patent Office  
Office européen des brevets



(11) EP 0 852 443 A2

(12) EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(43) Date of publication:  
08.07.1998 Bulletin 1998/28

(51) Int Cl.<sup>6</sup>: H04N 7/173, G06F 17/30

(21) Application number: 98300019.1

(22) Date of filing: 05.01.1998

(84) Designated Contracting States:  
AT BE CH DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU MC  
NL PT SE  
Designated Extension States:  
AL LT LV MK RO SI

(72) Inventor: Thrift, Phillip R.  
Dallas, Texas 75243 (US)

(74) Representative: Darby, David Thomas et al  
Abel & Imray  
Northumberland House  
303-306 High Holborn  
London WC1V 7LH (GB)

(30) Priority: 03.01.1997 US 34683 P

(71) Applicant: TEXAS INSTRUMENTS INC.  
Dallas, Texas 75243 (US)

(54) An apparatus for producing interactive television programs

(57) A Java television receiver (10) includes a Java television platform (12) that has a bidirectional Internet connection (14) capable of sending Internet data to the Java television platform (12) and transmitting data from the Java television platform (12) to an Internet provider. Additionally, a memory (13) is included to store a deck of showlet cards (15a) downloaded from the Internet. A tuner/decoder (24) connected to the Java television platform (12) is provided which can receive, tune and

decode television signals. An audio/video overlay (32) connected to the Java television platform is provided to combine a showlet card (15b) from the Java television platform (12) and television signals from the tuner/decoder (24). The display of showlet cards (15b) and television signals is coordinated by a synchronization unit (30). Finally, a video output (36) and an audio output (38) sends the combined Internet data and television signals to a television (40).

